

**LD 20 - An Act To Improve Substance Abuse Treatment
CONCEPT DRAFT**

SUMMARY

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.
This bill proposes to improve the delivery of substance abuse treatment.
No public hearing scheduled yet.

**LD 59 - An Act To Protect Students' Rights and Privacy Regarding Their
School Records**

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to adopt rules regarding dissemination of student information by schools not covered under current law. These rules are major substantive rules and must include substantially the same prohibitions and standards regarding dissemination of student information as applicable to publicly funded schools. The commissioner is required to recommend an appropriate penalty for a violation of the rules to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2016.

**Public hearing was held 2/9/15 and work session was held on 2/23/15.
Voted as Ought to Pass by committee (Education & Cultural Affairs).**

**LD 150 - An Act To Provide Anger Management Courses or Additional
Imprisonment for Domestic Violence Offenders**

SUMMARY

This bill provides for anger management courses or specified jail time in addition to the sentences for certain domestic violence offenders. The bill directs the Department of Corrections, in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, to develop standards and procedures for certification of anger management programs and to certify those programs. The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2016.

**Public hearing was held 3/13/15 and work session was held 3/20/15.
Divided report by committee (Criminal Justice & Public Safety).**

LD 199 - An Act To Improve the Reporting of Child Abuse

SUMMARY

This bill amends the law regarding mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect and of the suspicious death of a child by striking language allowing those reporters to cause someone else to make a report. Language requiring the individual mandated reporter to make a report is retained.

Public hearing scheduled for 3/31/15 at 2:00 pm.

LD 215 - An Act To Improve Student Retention in Maine's Postsecondary Institutions

SUMMARY

This bill directs Jobs for Maine's Graduates, a state-authorized nonprofit corporation, to provide mentoring and counseling services, course guidance and graduation planning, peer support services and financial guidance to up to 200 students and at up to 4 postsecondary institutions in the State for the purpose of significantly increasing the percentage of eligible students who obtain a postsecondary degree. Eligible students must have previously been enrolled in a Jobs for Maine's Graduates high school program, been in or currently be in foster care or have earned a high school equivalency diploma within the 5 years prior to obtaining these services.

Public hearing was held on 3/4/15 and work session was held on 3/23/15.

Voted as Ought to Pass by committee (Education & Cultural Affairs)

LD 391 - Resolve, To Create a State-run Virtual Academy Providing Maine Students with Access to Online Learning through Their Existing School Districts

SUMMARY

This resolve does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder group to develop plans to establish online and digital learning opportunities, which may include a state³³ administered virtual academy and a state-administered digital learning exchange, that provide all public schools in the State access to online instruction, online courses and digital learning resources for their students.
2. It directs the stakeholder group, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to complete the design of online and digital learning opportunities for Maine students and submit a report, including findings and any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 1, 2015.

No public hearing scheduled yet.

LD 417 - An Act Regarding Measures To Ensure Students Can Demonstrate Proficiency in Financial Literacy

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to develop methods to measure students' proficiency in financial literacy for those students taking part in financial literacy education pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 254, subsection 13 in order to help ensure they can demonstrate proficiency prior to graduation. The Commissioner of Education shall submit by January 13, 2016 a report on the measures and any suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Public hearing was 3/2/15 and work session was 3/4/15.

Voted as Ought to Pass by committee (Education & Cultural Affairs)

LD 440 - An Act To Create a Secure, Therapeutic Mental Health Unit

SUMMARY

This bill provides for the establishment of a secure, therapeutic mental health unit for defendants undergoing court-ordered assessments to determine their competency to stand trial or their criminal culpability and to provide therapeutic care for forensic patients. The bill establishes the unit as follows.

1. It directs the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to enter into an agreement to establish the unit with the sheriff of either Cumberland County or Somerset County.
2. It directs the Department of Corrections to provide security for the unit. Security staff must be dedicated to the unit and trained to provide security in a mental health hospital environment.
3. It directs the Department of Corrections to provide therapeutic mental health care for the unit. The therapeutic mental health care must meet standards established by a national organization on correctional facilities mental health standards. The Department of Health and Human Services may also provide mental health services to the unit upon agreement with the Department of Corrections and the county jail.
4. It requires that the population in a secure, therapeutic mental health unit be separated by sight and sound from the general jail population.
5. It specifies that a person under a court order to undergo a mental evaluation by the State Forensic Service must be admitted to the unit unless the Department of Health and Human Services determines that the person's mental health condition contraindicates admittance to the unit, the person is an inmate at a state correctional facility or there is not a suitable bed available.

Public hearing set for 4/1/15 at 1:00 pm (Criminal Justice & Public Safety)

LD 534 - An Act To Increase Crisis Intervention Training in the State

SUMMARY

This bill requires that, beginning January 2017, at least 20% of law enforcement officers in a municipal police department and in a county sheriff department must complete the so-called Memphis model of crisis intervention team training. Beginning June 2017, officers who have not completed this training must be certified in mental health first aid.

Public hearing set for 4/1/15 at 1:00 pm (Criminal Justice & Public Safety)

LD 601- An Act To Clarify the Authority of Individualized Education Plans in Relation to Proficiency-based Diplomas

SUMMARY

This bill allows a child with a disability who demonstrates proficiency through the use of evidence and alternative measures specified in the child's individualized education plan to be awarded a high school diploma.

No public hearing scheduled yet.

LD 627 - An Act To Make College More Affordable for Maine Residents

SUMMARY

This bill changes the Maine State Grant Program by providing that grants awarded to students attending the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy or the Maine Community College System may not be less than \$2,500 for students attending

their first year, \$3,500 for students attending their 2nd year, \$4,500 for students attending their 3rd year and \$5,500 for students attending their 4th year.

No public hearing scheduled yet.

LD 657 - An Act To Provide Enhanced Mental Health Services to the County Prison Population

CONCEPT DRAFT

SUMMARY

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to increase funding for mental health care services for the county prison population, including educating and training prison employees in behavioral health assessment and protocols on an annual basis. It would also require that every county jail have a mental health worker on site at least 8 hours a day.

Public hearing set for 4/1/15 at 1:00 pm (Criminal Justice & Public Safety)

LD 695 - An Act To Empower Parents in the Education of Their Children by Allowing an Opt-out from Standardized Assessments

SUMMARY

This bill requires a school administrative unit to excuse a student from standardized assessments at the written request of the student's parent or guardian and establishes requirements for school administrative units and the Department of Education related to excusing a student.

No public hearing scheduled yet.

LD 725 - An Act To Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools

SUMMARY

This bill requires a school administrative unit to complete and file proof of completion of suicide prevention awareness education and suicide prevention and intervention training for school personnel with the Department of Education. It also requires health education provided by a school administrative unit to students in grades 8 to 12 to include a comprehensive suicide prevention program.

No public hearing scheduled yet.